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Dear Tania,

We appreciated so much your courageous meeting with us. In my 27 years in psychiatry, I am always impressed how women like you can come to sessions where you do not know others very well and reveal very troubling personal experiences. Yet without such revelations society is immobilized in dealing with so much of man's inhumanity to man because of the protections built into our system.

Because I have learned that when it is time to confront someone with their past misdeeds, one must have a preponderance of data sufficient to break through the minimization and denial that most of us use to protect ourselves. This is especially common in disfunctional families which yours sounds like. That's why it's hard to get the alcoholic to admit his alcoholism, for example.

In talking with some experts who have studied ways to get such data from the past when memories cannot always be trusted for their accuracy, it was suggested that if we could have access to your earliest diaries we would have very strong data. Furthermore, if we could locate the home room teacher you first revealed the abuse to, and if she would corroborate your story we would have very strong data. We would need to know the grade and school and with your permission to talk with her we would make the effort to find her.

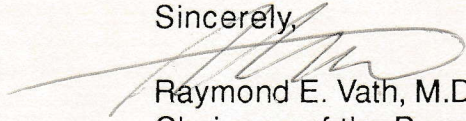
We are concerned that one of the difficulties we may face as we pursue this is that teachers, counselors and therapists whom you contacted, may themselves minimize your story to protect themselves, for several did violate the law by not reporting your story of abuse. We are attempting to avoid any confrontational approach with them to reduce the likelihood of this happening. After all we are not out to get anyone, only to get to the truth.

It has been almost a year since we first learned of the continued nature of your accusations, and as you know it has been very difficult to obtain data from the hospitals, from Childrens' Protective Services and even to arrange a meeting with you. Because the records were not very precise in describing the abuse, it was not until we met with you, that we were aware of the seriousness of the problem. We had assumed that they were not too serious as CPS had not pursued them. In the State of Washington where we have had a serial killer of women, as well as several children murdered by their parents, such charges are generally pursued with great effort. Apparently this is not so in Oregon.



If you are willing to help us further in the ways I have requested, I would appreciate a note, and we can make arrangements to have a diary copied, and your teacher located if possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Raymond E. Vath', is written over the printed name.

Raymond E. Vath, M.D.  
Chairman of the Board